RECOVERY CONTINUES AFTER WATER LEAK, SECOND FLOOR HIT HARDEST

When a water softener failed in the middle of the night on September 22, staff arrived to find pools of standing water throughout the central core of the library. Weeks later, the recovery still continues.

The initial response included help from City of Rochester departments, including Fire, Police, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation, as well as a crew from Service Master.

For three days, the library remained closed to the public as staff worked to assess damage and begin the cleanup process. Staff work spaces, storage, and the library’s public meeting rooms were the most affected by the water leak. Crews spent hundreds of hours on cleanup, which involved removing drywall, insulation, and ceiling tiles soaked with water. Library staff also took on the task of removing thousands of back issues of magazines, as the second floor Magazine Room was one of the hardest hit areas.

Other parts of the library’s second floor were also damaged, including much of the carpet around the Reference Desk. With safety a priority, and damaged carpet causing several tripping hazards, the second floor stayed closed for a full month, sending Reference services to the library’s main floor.

Sara Patalita, Head of Reference Services, says the month-long experience provided a unique look at how the second floor

(continued on page 2)
“Recovery Continues after Water Leak...” (continued from cover) of the library is used. “Our customers love the variety of spaces and really missed having places to relax, study, and meet with other people.” While many of the Reference services were replicated during the temporary second floor closure, Patalita says having everything on one floor was challenging.

“Our library sees a lot of visitors, and when we forced everyone into just one floor of the building, it was crowded,” explains Patalita.

Moving forward, Patalita says the experience is giving Reference staff the opportunity to look at ways to improve the second floor. “Moving into a new space gave us fresh eyes to look at how the second floor is used. We already have some ideas about things we may change in the future to provide even better service.”

During the reconstruction, staff worked on an expansion of the Convert-O-Lab (COL), the library’s self-serve digital conversion area. “Even before the water leak, we had steadily increasing requests to use the Convert-O-Lab,” says Reference Librarian Brian Lind. “We wanted to take advantage during our down time to add multiple stations to the existing COL area to hit the ground running once we re-open the space.”

LIBRARY, CITY WELCOME 55 NEW AMERICANS

For the second time in two years, Rochester Public Library hosted a Naturalization Ceremony in Rochester.

The event, originally planned for the library’s auditorium, was moved to the Mayo Civic Center after the library’s September water leak.

Library Director Audrey Betcher provided opening remarks at the event, saying Rochester’s library has a long history of welcoming people from all walks of life. Betcher also encouraged all new Americans to use their backgrounds and experiences to “be an active part of your community and your library.”

A naturalization ceremony is the final step for immigrants to become U.S. citizens and often follows a lengthy process, taking approximately five years.

According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office, in 2018 the United States naturalized over 756,000 people in ceremonies throughout the country and the world.

STORYTIME: FOR GROWNUPS, TOO!

Listening to others read isn’t just for children.

A new event is bringing together adults who also enjoy hearing others read to them: Storytime for Grownups.

At the October event, a few dozen over-eighteen-year-olds gathered at the People’s Food Coop in Rochester. Attendees were treated to readings from Minnesota authors that all mentioned food: carrot cake, cocktails, and lutefisk were included in the three separate readings, conducted by guest readers.

Kim Edson, Head of Readers Services at RPL, was one of the three readers. Her selection, from Elizabeth Berg’s “The Day I Ate Whatever I Wanted,” talked about a woman and her passion for Old Fashioned cocktails.

Edson says the event was well-received, and another storytime is already in the works. “We never lose that love of having someone read to us,” she explains.
2020 CENSUS

Five months from now Census forms will be in mailboxes across our communities. Will people know what the Census is or why it is important? Will our communities know that it is safe to respond? Not all do; that is why we need your help sharing this message. The Census impacts OUR lives and OUR communities.

What is the Census?
Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau undertakes a mammoth task: counting all of the people living in the United States and recording basic information. It is required to do this because it was written in the United States Constitution.

It is vital that we make sure everyone is counted in Minnesota because results of the 2020 census will determine the distribution of federal and state funding for public services such as schools, roads, and health care as well as the distribution of congressional seats in Washington D.C.

ATTENTION SNOW BIRDS!
ABSENTEE VOTING

In January 2020, go online to mnvotes.org to request an absentee ballot for the March presidential primary election. Be sure to request the ballot be mailed to your wintering address. Ballots must be returned by the election date, March 3, 2020, or they are not counted.

Is it safe?
Census data now is the most secure that any data can be. You can’t find any information that would identify you as an individual, including your individual home address or citizenship status. Private information is never published. Census workers are not allowed to share your information under the penalty of a $250,000 fine and up to five years in prison.

Encourage your community to apply for Census jobs.
How great would it be if our communities had trusted census workers? The Census Bureau is hiring hundreds of people across the state for a variety of census-related positions, including recruiting assistants, office clerks, and census takers. These temporary, part-time positions are available in every county and pay between $14 per hour and $20 per hour. This is one way to get involved and get paid to do it! Apply now with the Census Bureau online or call 1-855-562-2020, option 3, to find out about jobs in our area.

What can you do?
Fill out your form and encourage others to fill it out so WE ALL COUNT. Don’t be invisible in the data and help ensure that our communities have the resources for better schools, job assistance, and improved public services.

Learn more about the upcoming Census, the local Complete Count Committee, and how you can help by emailing Brittney Marschall at marschall.brittney@co.olmsted.mn.us. You are experts in how to communicate and reach our communities on this very important topic and we need your help!

HELPING KEEP ROCHESTER WARM

Donations of new or slightly-used hats, mittens, and scarves are being accepted at the library for the Warm Up, Rochester program.

Last winter over 700 items were distributed at the library to those in need.

Items can be dropped off at the library or Bookmobile.

STAR WARS PARTY

Excited for The Rise of Skywalker? Join us to celebrate all things Star Wars with activities, games, and our first ever Star Wars storytime. Costumes encouraged.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17
6:30-7:30PM | Youth Services Area

www.rplmn.org
The Foundation has gone a little Hollywood! If you watch FOX 47, you may have noticed a one-minute Partners in Positivity Public Service Announcement that runs when they have space on the channel. It features representatives from the wonderful Rochester Public Library staff and your Executive Director. You can find the video online, in the left column of our Foundation home page, on our Facebook page (left column, click Videos), and on the FOX 47 page. It’s a wonderful overview of why we love our library!

**Wit, Wisdom & Wine** will be held Saturday, February 1, 2020 at the Rochester Public Library from 6:30-10PM. You’ll have the opportunity to learn from entertaining speakers (like Tim Penny), and hear wonderful music (The Rochester Symphony will send a small group) while you sample delicious foods and wines. We will host wine and whiskey appreciation classes. Plus, you’ll have the opportunity to bid on some amazing silent auction items, or donate for a chance to win one of three beautiful jewelry selections from Hight & Randall, Personal Jewelers. Invitations will be in the mail shortly. Please “like” our Facebook page and click on events, then mark the drop down as “interested” to keep up to date the speakers, auction items, and fun surprises we are planning to reveal... call or email to learn more: 507.328.2387 | bkardock@rplmn.org

We are so grateful to all of you who have reached out to express good wishes and/or offer a gift after the September 22 water leak at the library. Thank you for helping us while we still work on recovery. If you have not yet had the opportunity to pitch in what you are able, please go to PayPal and click “More” in the lower left corner, then “support a charity”, and type in Rochester Public Library Foundation, or go to our Foundation page at www.rplmn.org/donate to make a donation.

Wishing you, your friends and families health, happiness, comfort and peace as we head into the holidays. It is a wonderful time of the year to give thanks and reflect on the gifts we’ve been given. Thank you for partnering with us to help serve our community. Please reach out if you are near the Foundation office in the Library so that we can exchange greetings!

**Brenda Kardock**
Rochester Public Library Foundation, Executive Director

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**WHAT OUR COMMUNITY IS READING**

- **VICTOR M. MONTORI, MD**
  Mayo Clinic
  "Grief is the Thing With Feathers" by Max Porter

- **JEANINE GANGENESS**
  Winona State University
  "The Water Dancer" by Ta-Nehisi Coates

- **SYLWIA BUJAK**
  125 Live
  "Flights" by Olga Tokarczuk

- **JULIE BROCK**
  Cradle 2 Career
  "Year of Yes" by Shonda Rhimes

- **CHRIS NELSON**
  KIMT-TV
  "The Last Lincolns" by Charles Lachman
DONORS AUGUST 15 - OCTOBER 15, 2019

Dr. & Mrs. John Bachman
Dr. Lori A. Blauwe
Shelley Burkhardt
Dr. Alan Cameron
Paula D. M. Chantigian
Charter House
Robert Cline & Patricia Barrier
Ms. Chris Cross
Eugene & Sandra Dankbar
Vicki Demmer
Erin Dietz
Robert Dunn & Joyce Sharp
David & Vicki Erickson
Ms. Mary Fitzgerald
Dr. & Mrs. G. Richard Geier, Jr.
Sue Greenberg
Bob & Pat Gregerson
Karl & Barbara Hanson
Marita Heller
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond D. Jewison
Brenda Kardock
Elaine Kardock
Richard & Sheila Kiscaden
Mr. David Bastyr
Gaylord & Bev Knutson
Kristina Kumar
Lonny & Nichole Lambrecht
Dotty & Doug Leimer
Marie-France Letendre
Mayo Foundation
MBT Bank
James Marttila & Kathleen Meyerle
Randy Peterson
Robert & Ruth Ann Miles
Beth M. Nienow
OverDrive
Barbara & Joseph Parks
People’s Food Cooperative Inc.
Irvin & Maureen Plitzuweit
Premier Bank
Mr. & Mrs. Merlin Ricklefs
Edward & Connie Rosenow
Andrea Schmidt
James Schwieters
Dale & Naomi Stanek
James & Darlene Vowels
Carolyn Wall
Roger & Sarabeth Watson
Ms. Joyce M. Wenz
Barbara Westmoreland
John & Irene Wittsie
Merl & Twila Winter
Dennis & Lynn Wong
Joyce Wood

IN MEMORY
Patricia J. Calvert
In memory of Donald M. Carroll
Ms. Margaret Dalen
In memory of Merle Dalen
Larry Laber
In memory of Carla Laber

IN APPRECIATION
Brenda Kardock
In appreciation of the library staff
Malea & Chad Schroeder
In appreciation of friend Sam Edge
Cindy Sheppard
In appreciation of Brenda Kardock

IN HONOR
Heidi Huser
In honor of Alex & Shyla Puggle
Autry & Elizabeth Williams
In honor of Brenda Kardock
Nancy J. Larson
In honor of Mason Kennedy
Sandy Tschida
In honor of Grandchildren Cassidy & Aiden

WIT, WISDOM & WINE VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS
Would you like to volunteer or put together a silent auction item for Wit, Wisdom & Wine 2020? Contact Brenda at 507.328.2387 or bkardock@rplmn.org.

www.rplmn.org
SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 1, 2020
Rochester Public Library
6:30-10PM

LAUGH, LEARN & SIP
WHILE SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Entertaining speakers, music, silent auction, jewelry raffle, wine, and hors d'oeuvres!

Early Bird Registration: $85
$95 after January 15

For more information and registration, contact the Foundation office at 507.328.2387 or visit rplmn.org/wit

JEWELRY RAFFLE

- Black Tahitian Pearl Pendant
- Tanzanite Heart Necklace

Tanzanite Stud Earrings
$10.00 per ticket

Drawing to be held at Wit, Wisdom & Wine on Saturday, February 1, 2020. Need not be present to win.

Must be 18 years or older to purchase ticket or win prize. Winner responsible for any applicable fees or taxes. Cash, check, or debit only.
The annual Autumn Book Sale almost didn’t happen this past October, following the library’s September water leak. The Friends of the Library’s back stock of donated books was located in the heavily-damaged library auditorium.

It didn’t take long for Friends members to rally together to develop a plan to not only clean up the mess, but also to create a couple of contingency plans to make the Autumn Book Sale a reality. At one point, Friends were prepared to host the sale in the library’s garage, but a last-minute approval from the city building inspector provided us with the green light to use the damaged auditorium.

Thousands of books were damaged in the water leak, which meant there were 25-30% fewer items in the inventory for the sale. However, community members still showed up, shopped, and contributed to the overall sales total of $6,061.

Didn’t get to make it to the sale, but still want to contribute? Donations are still being accepted at rplmn.org/HelpFriends.

Every December, our Gift Quality Book & Bake Sale gives us a chance to bring out the best of our donated collection. This year is no different when it comes to the exceptional quality of items, but the sale might be held in a new and exciting location in the library (depending on repair work in the library’s auditorium). For the latest details about the Gift Quality Book & Bake sale (and all other quarterly sales), visit: rplmn.org/booksales.

Save the date for the Friends Annual Meeting, scheduled for Monday, January 27 at 11:30AM.

All Friends members are invited to attend and hear a comprehensive report about everything accomplished in 2019 as well as plans for 2020.

Not a member? Make sure to renew by early January to receive your invite to the Annual Meeting. Renew online at rplmn.org/friends
THANK YOU!

City teammates chipped in to help after the September water leak, providing much-needed support in the first initial hours.

FIND US ONLINE

FIND US ONLINE

CHECK IT OUT (FOR FREE)
Nuture your creative side with 1000+ video classes in painting, knitting, crafting, sewing and more!

rplmn.org/create